

Ly JOHN MCELROY.

CHAPTER XVIII

JUST BEFORE THE BATTLE. The Great Armies Pushing Together at Gettysburg - Gen. Meade and His

Meade's Orders Assuming Command Once convinced that it was his duty Gen. Mende went about the execution m. of the responsibility so unexpectedly devolved upon him in the simple, straightforward, soldierly manner which was his leading characteristic. His order assuming command was mod est, sincere and entirely befitting the

"Headquarters Army of the Poto mac. June 28, 1863. "By direction of the President of the United States I hereby assume com-mand of the Army of the Potomac. As a soldier, in obeying this order—an

order totally unexpected and unsolicit-ed-I have no promises or pledges to make. The country looks to this army to relieve it from the devastation and disgrace of a hostile invasion. Whatever fatigues and sacrifices we may be called upon to underge, let us have it view constantly the magnitude of the interests involved, and let each man determine to do his duty, leaving to an all-controlling Providence the decision of the contest. It is with just diffidence that I relieve in the command of this army an eminent and accomplished soldier, whose name must ever appear conspicuous in the history of its achievements, but I rely upon the hearty support of my companions in arms to assist me in the discharge of the duties of the important trust which has been confided to me. "George G. Meade, Major-Genera Commanding."

Halleck to Meade.

Halleck's letter to Meade was all the new commander could desire. It was frank, free and full of the confidence which had been withheld from his predecessor. It said:

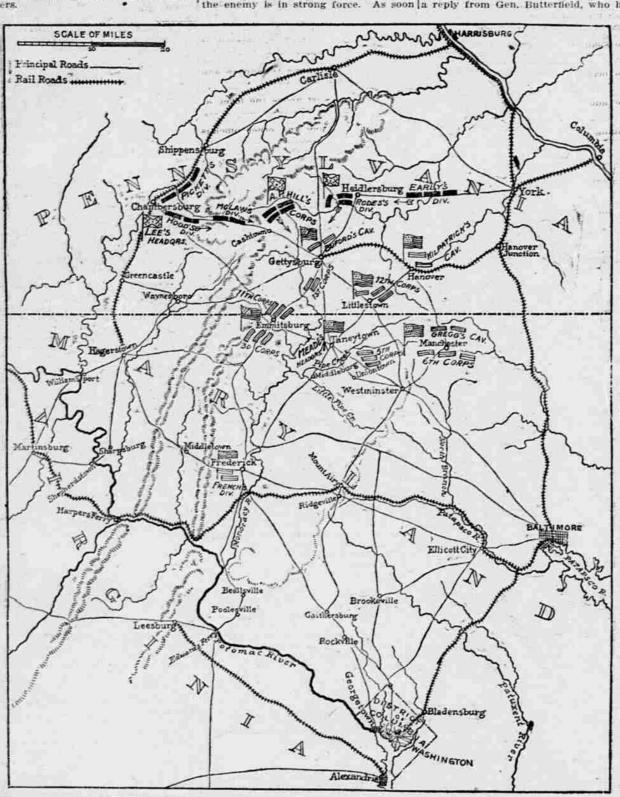
"Headquarters of the Army, "Washington, D. C., June 27, 1863. "Maj.-Gen. George G. Meade, Army of

"General: You will receive with this the order of the President placing you in command of the Army of the Potomac. Considering the circumstances, no one ever received a more important command, and I cannot doubt that you will fully justify the confidence which the Government has reposed in you. **-"You will not be hampered by any uninute instructions from these headquarters. Your army is free to act as you may deem proper under the circumstances as they arise. You will however, keep in view the important



GEN. GEORGE G. MEADE. (From a War Department Photograph.

fact that the Army of the Potomac is I obey it, and to the utmost of my abil-tomac for the impending battle, the covering army of Washington as ity will execute it. Totally unexpected did he decide to leave this force at well as the army of operation against as it has been, and in ignorance of the Harper's Ferry, as Halleck had seemed



THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO ARMIES ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 30, 1863.

under your direct orders.

municate more in detail

"Harper's Ferry and its garrison are as I can post myself up I will com- | consented to continue to act as Chief of Staff for Gen. Meade until after the coming battle, and who felt that Hal-leck's blame was directed against him.

Change of Strategem.

While Hooker had cherished projects cf breaking into the Valley in Lee's rear and cutting off his retreat—something which cou'd have been easily lone and which was the soldierly thing to do-Meade decided to put his army in a good position covering Washing-ton and Paltimore, and by threatening Lee to compel an attack from him. He therefore deployed his corps out more to the right to prevent Lee's army passing by that flank to reach Paltinore, while he held the left flank rest-

Washington secure.

strong defensive position covering both which was not always under control, Washington and Baltimore. Big Pipe and he was liable at times to say the village of Manchester, runs between to make full reparation at once to those to make full reparation at once to those whom he felt he had wronged. In appearance Gen. Meade was tall, slender, creek before falling into the Monocacy, some 15 miles above Frederick. The the country was generally rolling and spectacles added. He seemed a man of exceedingly fertile, yet the banks of a quiet, studious turn of mind, but no the creek were quite rugged, and there were frequently such playgrounds of or more flery courage when the occathe wild forces of nature as were seen sion demanded it.
in the Devil's Den at Gettysburg. Substantially Meade expected to deploy his from Winchester to Middletown, with his corps in such position as to such ignorance as to the Army of the readily reinforce that portion which Potomac as to believe that it had not yet left Virginia. This is most singular,

Second on Frizzleburg, the Union and the Sixth to Windstr.

Maj. George Gordon Mende. cut off his retreat. Gen. Lee says in his report:
for education, and young George enjoyed for a time the benefits of a school kept by one Mr. Salmon P. Chase, who was later Secretary of the Treasury. In 1831 he received an appointment to the Military Academy at West Point and army, having crossed the Potomac was 1831 he received an appointment to the Military Academy at West Point, and there showed himself a diligent, conscientious, but not brilliant scholar. He graduated, however, 19th in a class of 56, and was assigned to the artillery. Beside himself none of his class achieved any partice ar distinction. The head of the class was George W. Morell, who commanded h division on the Peninsular campaign, was promoted to Major-General/but failed to be confirmed. John H. Martificale, the third in the class, commanded a division, and was brevetted a Mafor-General. Montgomery Blair, the 18th, resigned from the ery Blair, the 18th, resigned from the Army to practice law, and was a member of Lincoln's Cabinet. Markets

"You are authorized to remove from command and to send from your army any officer or other person you may deem proper, and to appoint to command as you may deem expedient.

"In fine, General, you are intrusted with all the power and authority which the President, the Secretary of War or the President, the Secretary of War or the General-in-Chief can confer on you, and you may rely upon our full support.

"You will keep me fully informed of all your movements and the positions" true to the new commander as they advised it were generally, first, that

had been to his predecessors. Public opinion in the army forms quickly, and the members of the other corps put themselves in position at once to learn what they could from those of the Fifth Corps as to the new commander. As the Fifth Corps was admiringly loyal to Meade, it did not take long for the rest of the strongly prepose.

per's Ferry, which had been made the enemy so far as known.

"I shall always be ready to advise and those of the enemy so far as known.

"I shall always be ready to advise and the both Hooker and the Adman assist you to the utmost of my ability.

"Wery respectfully, your obedient "Wery respectfully, your obedient "Gen. Meade immediately sent a telegration in reply, as follows:

"H. W. Halleck, General-in-Chief."

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"Fredrick, Md. June 28, 1853; 7 a. im (Received 10 a. m.)

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"Gen. H. W. Halleck, General-in-Chief."

"To order placing me in command 11,000 fresh, available men directly for this army is received. As a soldier into the body of the Army of the Poton of the study of the higher walks given to the study of the higher walks of his profession, to familiarizing him determined that he could not reach us. The study of the higher walks of his profession, to familiarizing him one when the study of the higher walks of his profession, to familiarizing him one when the study of the higher walks of his profession, to familiarizing him one when the study of the higher walks of his profession, to familiarizing him of his profession, to familiarizing him one when the study of the higher walks of his profession, to familiarizing him overments contingent upon our succession to fall reach walks.

"S. Williams, Ast Adjt-Gen. Meade: "By command of Maj. Gen. Meade: Gen. Halleck."

The this was very graceful to Gen. Meade, it did not meet with his approval, and he refused to avail himself of it. Meade said that, yielding to Butterfield's arguments, he had at first difight at Dranesville, Va., the first victories of the control of the con rected 4,000 men to be left on Mary-land Hights to guard the opening into His next was at Beaver Dam Creek, the the Shenandoah Valley, with the re-maining 7,000 sent forward to Freder-Pennsylvania Reserves. In the formaick to guard the Baltimore & Ohio tion Reynolds's Brigade was on the Baltimore. Latter he was informed by right, Seymour's on the left and Meade Butterfield that the men on Maryland in reserve. The punishment inflicted Highls were destitute of provisions, upon the swarming Confederates whom where upon he ordered them to retire. Lee had rushed against the position was to Washington, taking all public prop- appalling. The Pennsylvanians showed the coolness and discipline of veterans and, waiting till each successive charge of the enemy was within easy range, mowed the Confederates down with Frazier's Farm, June 29, 1862, the Pennsylvania Reserves were desperately engaged, and covered themselve with glory by their magnificent fighting The division lost heavily, however Gens. Reynolds and McCall were captured, Gen. Meade was badly wounded an Aid was killed by his side, and every regiment had to mourn the loss of gal lant officers and men. All came out of on the South Mountain to make reputation. Reynolds received the comassington secure.

The country is which the Army of mand of the First Corps after Antietam, while Gen. Meade, who had returned to wide, triangular valley, with the apex near the mouth of the Monocacy on the Potomac, and Frederick, its keypoint, situated in the narrower part. The valley stretched from the South Mountain on the west to a nearly content of the property The valley stretched from the South He led it lorward directly against the Mountain on the west to a parallel enemy's lines, which he pierced, scattered all opposition before him, and trend of hills 40 miles to the eastward, Mountain on the west to a parallel range of hills 40 miles to tne eastward, and which shut off the watershed of the Monocacy from those of the Patagora and Patuxent. At a gap in this latter range of hills is the little town of Westminster, the terminus of the branch radioad running from Baltimore to tail the rich agricultural region. From Erdderick a number of good trouds tradiste to the north and cast. One of the way of Emmits burg. Gettysburg and Heidlersburg. Another with the York road, running by the way of Emmits burg. Gettysburg are Hanover. These main roads were intersected by east and west roads running from Baltimore to the gaps in the South Mountain. The otowal of Gettysburg is sit-

well as the army of operation against the seem, and in ignorance of the lavading forces of the rebels. You will therefore manuver and fight in Such a manner as to cover the Capital and also Baltimore, as far as circumstances will admit. Should Gen. Lee move upon either of these places it is ed, and if the enemy is checked in his attempt to cross the Susquehanna, or if him or arrive with him, so as to give him battle.

"All forces within the sphere of your operations will be sent to me, as from all accounts of the enemy is in strong force. As soon a reply from Gen, Butterfield, who had one of the troops and position of the cannual report to wish. Instead, he ordered French to wish. Instead, he ordered Fren Creek comes down from the eastern bitterest things, yet his sense of justice hills before mentioned near the little was so strong that he never neglected

> Lee Token Unawares As late as June 28 Gen. Lee was in

Lee might attempt to break thru. yet left Virginia. This is most singular,
As it advanced the army covered all as it would seem that even with Stuart's
the roads leading to Washington and Cavalry absent he should have known Baltimore. The First and Eleventh that Hooker's army was in Maryland. Corps were directed on Emmitsburg, the advancing upon him. That the Army Third and Twelfth on Taneytown, the of the Potomac should have done so Fifth to was the obvious thing, and Lee should Ind. have been prepared for it. In his re-port, however, he asys that he was not, which shows the difference between op-The new commander of the Army of the Potomac was now in his 48th year, and as perfect an officer and soldier as a spy and the carrier of intelligence. In any army could show. He belonged to a family which had always displayed military tastes, and members of which had distinguished themselves in the any risks or make any effort to a specific to the control of the carrier of intelligence. In military tastes, and members of which pathizers, no one was anxious to take had distinguished themselves in the any risks or make any effort to carry army and navy. The ancestor of the Lee information. He was groping in family was Robert Meade, who migrated from Ireland to Philadelphia some scouts carry information to Lee all the family was Robert Meade, who migrated from Ireland to Philadelphia some time prior to 1732, and became a prominent merchant. He was a zealous patriot, and his sons were public-spirited citizens, who took the lead in the resistance to the encroachments of the mother country. George Meade, son of Robert and grandfather of the General, in 1780 contributed what was then considered an enormous sum—12,000 sterling—to help supply Washington's suffering army. The father of Gen. Meade went to Spain on business and remained there 17 years, engaged in furnishing supplies from America to the British and Spanish armies during the Peninsular War. He was also United States Naval Agent at the port of Cadiz and it was at this place that is the dark. Stuart had expected to have secults carry information, the was groping in the dark. Stuart had expected to have secult carry information to Lee all the time, but those-on whom he most relied for this purpose failed him. Mosby was prevented from either reaching Stuart or Lee, and Stringfellow, a most valuable spy, had been captured. Gen. Longstreet had sent one of his best Secret Service men, named Harrison, from Culpeper to Washington three weeks before with orders to stay there until he got some news of importance. He dark. Stuart had expected to have scouts carry information to Lee all the time, but those-on whom he most relied for this purpose failed him. Mosby was prevented from either reaching Stuart or Lee, and Stringfellow, a most valuable spy, had been captured. Gen. Longstreet had sent one of his best Secret Service men, named Harrison, from Culpeper to Washington three weeks before with orders to stay there until he got some news of importance. He dark. Stuart had expected to have the time, but those-on whom he most relied for this purpose failed him. Mosby was prevented from either caching but those-on whom he most relied for this purpose failed him. Mosby was prevented from either caching but the specifical him. Mosby was prevented from either caching but those-on whom h ed States Naval Agent at the port of two near the base of South Mountain. Cadiz, and it was at this place that his son, George Gordon Meade, was born Dec. 31, 1815. His father sent his mother and the children back to this country for education, and young George at Cappe of the Potomac were at Frederick, Md., and two near the base of South Mountain. This intelligence was very threatening to Lee's plans, since it indicated a purpose to cross the South Mountain and cut off his retreat. Gen. Lee says in his report;

to Meade, it did not take long for the rest of the army to be strongly preposition of that garrison would make sessed in his favor and entirely reconciled to the change. The corps moved on with fresh hope springing up in their breasts, convinced that they were now to encounter the enemy under cities mustances more favorable than ever, with the chances of victory strongly on their side.

NYCELROY.

It is did not take long for the rest of the army to be strongly preposition, and event they would make siege of Vera Cruz and three batties. It is seems that in Mexico he began to show a distaste for engineering, and swelling of millions of hearts with pride ability be required to leave that post; that in the event of success they could during the rest of the same to the presence of the foc; our failure to do the seed of them; that in the was a dandlifed young officer, were particular as to dress, conduct and during yet particular as to dress, conduct and during yet particular as to dress, conduct and during yet and the event of success they could doubtless remember that the chances of victory strongly on their side.

NYCELROY.

NYCELROY.

As soon as Hooker was superseded Halleck handed over to Meade the 11-of your own troops and those of the lenemy so far as known.

This is addressed in fitting terms. Corps and other commanders are authorized by Reynolds's collision with Hill. Soon and the events that followed, prevented work as engineer, building light houses, surveying boundaries and superintend-per's Ferry, which had been made the presence of the foc; our failure to do the seed of victory. It is seems that in Mexico he began to show a distaste for engineering, and show a distaste for engineering, and show a distaste for engineering. And there was a dandlifed young officer, very particular as to dress, conduct and during yet and the event of success they could not reach the presence of the foc; our failure to do them; the them; that in the event of success they would in all problemed to ensure the presence of the f

Monterey Gap, and came upon the campfires of the enemy on the Fairfield road, and reported to Reynolds at Emmitsburg. Reynolds appreciated the strategic importance of Gettysburg, and prove that the 27th Mich. was the arst that place and hold it, sending out stronghold. scouts to locate the enemy. When Buford reached Gettysburg he learned that a brigade of the enemy had appeared before that place, but had refired as he came in sight. In the meantime Kilpatrick, as before stated, had pushed on from the center toward Littlestown and then to Hanover, where he and Stuart they in use when the war started? ran against one another quite violently W. J. L. Hughes, 3d Ky. Cav., Owens-Gregg's Divi- boro, Ky. as well as unexpectedly. sion moved by the right flank of the army on Westmingter, covering the country toward York and Carlisle by reconnoissances and patrols.

A common method of building bridges

The news which Gen. Buford sent to in use for centuries was to support the Gen. Meade made him believe that Lee bridge upon barrels or small, river Army of the Potomac, and was desisting from his intentions upon Harrisburg to plies from that city, first by the way of Westminster and then by Hanover. The marching orders which Mende issued on the evening of June 30 were intended to close up the corps on the center with a view to establishing a strong line be-

hind Pipe Creek. (To be continued.)

any history of the 125th Ill., please give it to us in your paper.—Barton battle of Franklin opened at 4 p. m., Snyder, Deatsville, Kv.

ville Sept. 3, 1862. Those members whose terms would have expired previous to Oct. 1, 1835, were mustered out June 2, 1865, the remaining mem-Skirmish firing kept up and at 10 Skirmish firing kept up and at 10 out June 9, 1865, the remaining members transferred to the 69th Ill., and mustered out with that regiment July 31, 1865. It was commanded by Col. Oscar F. Harmon, who was killed in hight and took up a position at Brentwood at Kenesaw Mountain, succeeded wood.—Editor National Tribume. etted Colonel March 13, 1865. It be longed to Davis's Division, Fourteenth Corps, and lost 97 killed and 197 from disease, etc.-Editor National Tribune

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rick, the commanders of the other two Ninth Corps succeeded in getting into divisions, who had yet reputations to the fort, some of whom belonged to make. Gen. Buford had sent Gen. Mer- New York, but the fire from the inner ritt with the Regular Cavalry Brigade line of the Confederate works was un-to watch the outlet of the Hagerstown bearable and they retreated. The fire road at Mechanicstown. Then with went out and things quieted before the Gamble's and Devin's Brigades he made morning of the 2d of April, 1865. As a bold rush into the valley to ascertain you say, the fort was charged again on if any considerable portion of the ene-my was around Hagerstown and Antie-by the Twenty-fourth Corps and other n. He crossed the South Mountain troops and captured some time during Turner's Gap and descended to the day. The enemy's efforts to regain Boonesboro, and then rode rapidly the fort were unsuccessful, and we also north as far as Waynesboro, Pa., with-had a Lieutenant of Co. C. 199th Pa. out finding any hostile force. He turned killed, as well as several others wound-and recrossed the mountains at the ed inside of the fort."

N. S. Philbrick, 27th Mich. Hooniam ordered Fuford to immediately occupy to enter and hoist their colors over that

Pontoons.

Editor National Tribune: To settle dispute, will you please inform me at what period of the civil war the pon-

craft, such as canoes and skiffs, which could be readily gathered up for the emergency. During the Napoleonic emergency. During the Napoleonic wars, we constantly read of the bridges of boats, and some of these boats must have been especially constructed for bridge service. Forms of pontoous are described in the earlier works of military engineering and were in limited use at the time of the outbreak of the war, but our war gave them a great development, as it brought into play all the ingenuity and engineering skill of the vast mass of intelligent and skilled men among the volunteers. Editor National Tribune.

Colored Troops-Franklin. Editor National Tribune: Please tell me thru your paper how many colored troops were enlisted as United States soldlers in the war of the rebellion. Also at what hour in the day did the battle of Franklin begin and how long did it last?-J. L. Herbert, LeGrand,

There were altogether 178,975 col-ored troops enlisted, of whom 99,337 were enlisted in the Southern States, According to the journal of the Editor National Tribune: If you have Joseph S. Fullerton, Assistant Adwhen "the enemy made a vigorous The 125th Ill. was organized at Dan- and strong assault along the entire

Made \$42.75 First Week Corps, and lost 97 killed and 101 from disease, etc.—Editor National Tribune.

The Gist III.

Editor National Tribune: I wish you would publish a short history of the fist III. I have made this request several times.—John McCoy, Greencastle, Ind.

This regiment, with the exception of Co. K. was organized at Carrolton from February to March, 1862. Co. K was organized in January. 1864. and the regiment finally mustered out Sept. 8, 1865. It was commanded by Col. Jacob Fry, who resigned May 14, 1863, and at the time of muster-out by Col. Jerome B. Nulton. It belonged to Kimbail's Division. Sixteenth Corps, and lost 37 Cincinnati, O. Writes Dan. Crawford of W. Va.-Exciting

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Army to practice law, and was a mem by selected it as a point of concentration, since so many roads centered there army of Lincoln's Cabinet. Marsena R. Patrick, the 48th, became Provost Marshal-General of the Army of the Potonia. With his army well in hand he could compel Meade to desist from but the law of the Potonia. James Reagin

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